

**Resilient Hartford Meeting
Draft Minutes of November 26, 2024**

Resilient Hartford Members Present: Kyle Katz (10/30/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27) Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26) and Laura Simon (1/8/27).

Staff Present: Matt Osborn, Town Planner.

Others Present: Rachel Kent.

A Resilient Hartford Meeting was held on Tuesday, November 26th in Room 312 of the Hartford Town Hall. Kyle Katz called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

1. **Public Comments:** There were no public comments.
2. **RH Minutes of October 22, 2024:** Kyle asked if there are any changes to the draft minutes of 10/22/24 RH meeting. Kyle noted a correction. He made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Sally Mansur and unanimously approved.
3. **Vermont Fruit and Nut Tree Grant:** Matt reported that RH was granted an extension. He indicated that he was hoping to spend the remaining grant funds (\$798.12) by the end of June. Rachel suggested forming a working group to look at how best to spend the remaining funds in accordance with the grant agreement. Sally agreed to work with Rachel.
4. **Clifford Park Riparian Area Planning:** Matt reported that he attended a site visit at Clifford Park Earl Hatley and Parks and Recreation Department Director Scott Hausler on October 25th to discuss ways to enhance the riparian buffer while still meeting the Parks and Recreation Department goal to create view corridors to the river from the Park. Matt stated that the site visit went well and that a formal process isn't required. Instead, Matt and RH will work directly with Scott. Rachel responded that this is great news. Kyle suggested developing a plan for the riparian buffer. Others agreed.
5. **Food Forest Winter Close-up:** Matt reported that he will disconnect the downspout, empty the water tank and drain the hose at the Clifford Park barn for routine winter maintenance. Kyle thanked Matt.
6. **Food Forest Signage:** Rachel reported that she worked with Vic on signage ideas. Matt noted that the signage must conform with the Hartford Flood Hazard Area Regulations. He will discuss with Hartford Zoning Administrator Jo-Ann Ells.
7. **Food Forest Plans for 2025:** Matt noted that RH agreed to hold a community meeting in mid to late winter when people start to think about spring to get community input about plans for 2025 and beyond. He suggested strategizing to get a good turnout noting that last December, we had a small turnout for the community discussion at the West Hartford Library. Matt noted that we have a strong core group of volunteers but there are people that participated early on that we haven't seen in the past year or so. He suggested holding a potluck. Michaela suggested inviting a speaker to incorporate a learning component. Laura suggested showing a film about a successful food forest. She volunteered to research it. It was agreed to plan an event for February.
8. **Food Security:** Laura noted that one of the goals of RH is greater food security. She would like to see RH involved with other food related projects. Rachel reported that the Kilton Library in West Lebanon hosted a seed library. She thinks we should consider it in Hartford. Michaela responded

that the Quechee and Wilder Libraries had a seed library and few people participated. Michaela noted that in addition to perennial gardens, the Quechee Library also had some vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes and cucumbers. Matt noted that Food Forest volunteer Ruth Fleishman is involved with the Upper Valley Seed Savers and is a good resource for ideas. Laura suggested a junior gardening program. Sally noted that the West Hartford Library has raised beds for vegetables. She added that indoor seed starting usually occurs around Town Meeting in Vermont. It was agreed to continue discussion.

9. Quechee Abenaki Garden: Rachel reported that there was a really good turnout for the October 26th winter close-up workday at the Quechee Abenaki Garden. Laura agreed. She noted that the garden fencing was completed.

10. Community Resilience Building in Hartford: Kyle reported that the Nature Conservancy sponsored community-based workshop is scheduled for Thursday, December 5th at the Wilder Club. He noted that the event is similar to the Lebanon event that happened a year ago. There will be large group and small group discussions. Categories include infrastructure, health, environment and society. Kyle and Matt will attend. Laura stated that she would like to attend if space allows.

11. RH Openings: Kyle noted that there are still two openings on RH. Sally volunteered to prepare a write-up for the Hartford List Serv.

12. Announcements:

- a. Vermont Community Resilience Organizations Grant Close-out: Matt reported that he completed close-out of the Vermont Go Cro's grant issued in 2019. The \$2,500 grant funded the 2019 Potato Fest and the Resilience Preparedness Community event and with Covid shifted to the Clifford Park Food Forest. Kyle thanked Matt for taking care of the administration of the grant.

13. Next RH Meeting: Kyle noted that there is no December meeting and asked if we wanted to meet twice in January. It was agreed to meet next on Tuesday, January 28th.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

15. Date RH Member Terms Expire: Earl Hatley (4/4/25), Michaela Lavelle (6/27/26), Sally Mansur (9/16/27) Laura Simon (1/8/27) and chair Kyle Katz (10/30/26).